

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 9, 19, 23, 27, and 35-36, and add new claims 42-46, all as shown below. All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended): A method for a first user to communicate with a second user and a third user over multiple channels comprising the steps of:

- (a) communicating audibly over a first channel between the first user and the second user; and
- (b) initiating a new communication over a second channel between the first user and the third user, the second channel being capable of transmitting an audible input from the third user only to the first user while being capable of transmitting audible signals corresponding to a first user's silent input from the first user to the third user, by performing the following steps:
 - (1) selecting ~~a~~ the second channel;
 - (2) selecting a phrase which can be predefined, recorded as needed, or synthetically generated on demand;
 - (3) generating an audible utterance representative of the selected phrase; and
 - (4) providing the audible utterance over the selected second channel only while communicating over the first channel simultaneously.

2. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a second channel further includes selecting a plurality of channels, and wherein the step of providing the audible utterance over the selected second channel further includes providing the audible utterance over the plurality of selected channels.

3. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating an audible utterance includes the step of obtaining an internal representation of a phrase element associated with the selected phrase and generating an audible utterance based on the internal phrase element.

4. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a second channel includes selecting a graphical representation of said second channel using a graphical user interface.
5. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a phrase includes selecting a graphical representation of said phrase using a graphical user interface.
6. (Original): The method of Claim 5, wherein the graphical representation of said phrase is selected from a group consisting of an icon, a symbol, a figure, a graph, a checkbox, a GUI widget, a graphics button, and a pulldown menu button.
7. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said internal representation of said selected phrase is obtained from a host computer.
8. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step generating an audible utterance includes text-to-speech processing.
9. (Currently Amended): A multi-channel telecommunication system, comprising:
 - (a) an audio input;
 - (b) a channel representation;
 - (c) a phrase representation which can be predefined, recorded as needed, or synthetically generated on demand;
 - (d) a display capable of displaying a channel representation and a phrase representation;
 - (e) a memory capable of storing the channel representation, phrase representation and a phrase element associated with the phrase representation, wherein the phrase element has an internal representation of an audible utterance;
 - (f) a processor, coupled to the audio input, display and memory, wherein the processor initiates a first control signal and a second control signal not in response to an incoming communication;

- (g) an audio generator, coupled to the processor and memory, wherein the audio generator generates an audible utterance responsive to the first control signal and the phrase element; and,
- (h) a channel selector, coupled to the processor and audio generator, wherein the channel selector selects a channel responsive to the second control signal and provides the audible utterance over the selected channel only while communicating over another channel simultaneously and being capable of receiving an audible input over the selected channel.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the multi-channel telecommunication system further comprises:

- (i) an audio mixer, coupled to the processor and channel selector, mixing audio received from said channel selector.

12. (Original): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the phrase representation and channel representation are displayed in a graphic user interface (GUI).

13. (Original): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the multi-channel telecommunication system further comprises:

- (i) an audio monitor, coupled to the processor of channel selector, monitoring an audio level received from said channel selector.

14. (Previously Presented): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the channel representation is selected from a group consisting of a text and a label.

15. (Previously Presented): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the internal representation is in a format selected from a group consisting of a sound file, a record or playback, a text and a Musical Instrument Digital Interface (“MIDI”) sequence.

16. (Original): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the internal representation is obtained from a host computer.
17. (Original): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the first control signal is generated in response to a user selecting the phrase representation and the second control signal is generated in response to a user selecting the channel representation.
18. (Previously Presented): The multi-channel telecommunication system of Claim 9, wherein the phrase representation and channel representation are selected from a group consisting of a button, a switch, a barcode, a label, a glyph, and Braille.
19. (Currently Amended): A system, comprising:
- (a) a plurality of input channels;
 - (b) a processing device for storing an internal representation of a phrase element which can be predefined, recorded as needed, or synthetically generated on demand; and,
 - (c) a scanning device, coupled with the processing device, for reading a first code associated with the phrase element and for reading a second code associated with at least one of the plurality of input channels, wherein processing device initiates to provide an audible utterance only over the channel associated with said second code while communicating over another channel ~~simultaneously~~ and being capable of receiving an audible input over the channel.
20. (Original): The system of Claim 19, wherein the processing device includes:
a channel selection device, for selecting at least one of the plurality of input channels responsive to said second code.
21. (Original): The system of Claim 19, wherein the scanning device is a barcode scanner.
22. (Original): The system of Claim 19, wherein the scanning device is a laser scanner.

23. (Currently Amended): A general purpose computing device, comprising:
- (a) a display, capable of displaying a channel representation and a phrase representation;
 - (b) a memory, capable of storing the channel representation, phrase representation, and a phrase element associated with the phrase representation, wherein the phrase element can be predefined, recorded as needed; or synthetically generated on demand and has an internal representation of an audible utterance;
 - (c) a processor, coupled to the display and memory, wherein the processor initiates to generate a first control signal responsive to selection of the channel representation and a second control signal responsive to selection of the phrase representation;
 - (d) an audio generator, coupled to the processor and memory, wherein the audio generator generates an audible utterance responsive to the second control signal and the phrase element; and
 - (e) a channel selector, coupled to the processor and audio generator, wherein the channel selector activates a channel responsive to the first control signal and provides the audible utterance over the selected channel only not in response to an incoming communication while communicating over another channel simultaneously and being capable of receiving an audible input over the selected channel.
24. (Original): The general purpose computing device of Claim 23, wherein the display is a touchscreen display.
25. (Original): The general purpose computing device of Claim 23, wherein the channel representation and phrase representation are displayed in a Graphic User Interface (“GUI”).
26. (Original): The general purpose computing device of Claim 23, wherein the general purpose computing device is a personal digital assistant.

27. (Currently Amended): A telecommunication infrastructure, comprising:
- (a) a first electronic device, coupled to the telecommunication infrastructure over a first channel;
 - (b) a second electronic device, coupled to the telecommunication infrastructure over a second channel;
 - (c) a third electronic device, coupled to the telecommunication infrastructure, capable of selecting the first channel or the second channel and selecting a phrase representation which can be predefined, recorded as needed, or synthetically generated on demand; and,
 - (d) a processing device, coupled to the telecommunication infrastructure, capable of storing:
 - 1) a phrase element associated with the phrase representation; and,
 - 2) a software program for providing an audible utterance over the selected first or second channel only in response to a selected phrase representation while permitting the third electronic device to communicate ~~simultaneously~~ over the unselected second or first channel and being capable of receiving an audible input over the selected channel.
28. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 27, wherein the third electronic device generates an in-band signal in response to a phrase representation selection and a channel representation selection.
29. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 27, wherein the third electronic device generates an out-of-band signal in response to a phrase representation selection and a channel representation selection.
30. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 28, wherein the signal is a Dual-Tone Multi Frequency (“DTMF”) signal.

31. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 27, wherein the phrase representation is selected from the group consisting of an icon, a symbol, a figure, a graph, a checkbox, a GUI widget and a graphics button.

32. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 27, wherein the phrase representation is selected from the group consisting of a text and a label.

33. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 27, wherein the processing device is a computer coupled to the Internet.

34. (Original): The telecommunication infrastructure of Claim 27, wherein the processing device is a relay between the first electronic device, the second electronic device, and the third electronic device.

35. (Currently Amended): A method for a user to communicate with a plurality of recipients over a plurality of channels, comprising steps of:

- (a) communicating over a first channel with a first recipient;
- (b) selecting a channel for generating an audible utterance;
- (c) selecting a phrase representation which can be predefined, recorded as needed, or synthetically generated on demand; and,
- (d) generating an audible utterance only over said selected channel based on said selected phrase representation while communicating over the first channel simultaneously and being capable of receiving an audible input over the selected channel.

36. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 35, wherein audio input from said plurality of channels are mixed.

37. (Original): The method of Claim 35, further including the step of:
obtaining an internal representation of a phrase element associated with said selected phrase representation.

38. (Original): The method of Claim 35, said step of selecting a channel for generating an audible utterance includes the steps of:

accessing a channel representation; and,
selecting a channel representation.

39. (Original): The method of Claim 38, wherein said channel representation is displayed on a graphical user interface.

40. (Original): The method of Claim 35, said step of selecting a phrase for generating an audible utterance includes the steps of:

accessing a phrase representation; and,
selecting a phrase representation.

41. (Original): The method of Claim 40, wherein said phrase representation is displayed on a graphical user interface.

42. (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein audio input from said multiple channels are mixed.

43. (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein a graphical representation of audio on a second channel can be visually displayed to a user.

44. (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein data for phrase elements and phrase representations is extracted from stored information on a host computer.

45. (New): The method of Claim 44, wherein the extracted data is appointment information from a calendar application.

46. (New): The method of claim 45, wherein text-to-speech generation or predefined audio vocabularies is used to vocalize the appointment information.